

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A muscle fatigue level measuring device comprising:
impedance component measuring means,
5 muscular tissue effective length measuring means
biologically equivalent model parameter computation means, and
muscle fatigue level determination means,
wherein
the impedance component measuring means measures a resistance
10 component and a reactance component in a body part as impedance
in the body part,
the muscular tissue effective length measuring means measures
a muscular tissue effective length in the body part,
the biologically equivalent model parameter computation means
15 computes biologically equivalent model parameters including
extracellular fluid resistivity and distribution membrane
capacitance based on the resistance component and reactance
component measured by the impedance component measuring means
and the muscular tissue effective length measured by the
20 muscular tissue effective length measuring means, and
the muscle fatigue level determination means determines a
muscle fatigue level based on the ratio between the
extracellular fluid resistivity and distribution membrane
capacitance computed by the biologically equivalent model
25 parameter computation means.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the impedance component
measuring means comprises:

current supply means,
voltage measuring means, and
impedance component computation means,
wherein

- 5 the current supply means supplies alternating currents of multiple frequencies to a body part,
the voltage measuring means measures voltages generated in the body part by supplying the alternating currents of multiple frequencies by the current supply means, and
10 the impedance component computation means computes resistance components and reactance components in the body part by dividing the voltages measured by the voltage measuring means by the currents supplied from the current supply means.

15 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the alternating currents of multiple frequencies are an alternating current with a frequency of 50 kHz and an alternating current with a frequency of 6.25 kHz.

20 4. The device of claim 1, wherein the muscular tissue effective length measuring means comprises:

part length measuring means,
part width measuring means, and
muscular tissue effective length computation means,

25 wherein

the part length measuring means measures a part length in the body part,

the part width measuring means measures a part width in the body

part, and
the muscular tissue effective length computation means computes
the muscular tissue effective length in the body part based on
the part length measured by the part length measuring means and
5 the part width measured by the part width measuring means.

5. The device of claim 2, wherein the muscular tissue
effective length measuring means comprises:
part length measuring means,
10 part width measuring means, and
muscular tissue effective length computation means,
wherein
the part length measuring means measures a part length in the
body part,
15 the part width measuring means measures a part width in the body
part, and
the muscular tissue effective length computation means computes
the muscular tissue effective length in the body part based on
the part length measured by the part length measuring means and
20 the part width measured by the part width measuring means.

6. The device of claim 3, wherein the muscular tissue
effective length measuring means comprises:
part length measuring means,
25 part width measuring means, and
muscular tissue effective length computation means,
wherein
the part length measuring means measures a part length in the

body part,

the part width measuring means measures a part width in the body part, and

the muscular tissue effective length computation means computes

5 the muscular tissue effective length in the body part based on the part length measured by the part length measuring means and the part width measured by the part width measuring means.

7. The device of claim 4, wherein the muscular tissue
10 effective length computation means computes the muscular tissue effective length by use of the following expression:

$$M_{eff} = k \sqrt{Ml^2 \times Mw^2}$$

wherein M_{eff} represents the muscular tissue effective length,

Ml represents the part length, Mw represents the part width,

15 and k represents a correction coefficient.

8. The device of claim 5, wherein the muscular tissue effective length computation means computes the muscular tissue effective length by use of the following expression:

20
$$M_{eff} = k \sqrt{Ml^2 \times Mw^2}$$

wherein M_{eff} represents the muscular tissue effective length,

Ml represents the part length, Mw represents the part width,

and k represents a correction coefficient.

25 9. The device of claim 6, wherein the muscular tissue effective length computation means computes the muscular tissue effective length by use of the following expression:

$$M_{eff} = k \sqrt{Ml^2 \times Mw^2}$$

wherein M_{eff} represents the muscular tissue effective length, M_l represents the part length, M_w represents the part width, and k represents a correction coefficient.

5 10. The device of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the biologically equivalent model parameter computation means computes extracellular fluid resistivity, intracellular fluid resistivity and distribution membrane capacitance as biologically equivalent model parameters by use of the
10 following expressions:

$$(R + jX)/M_{eff} = p_r + j p_x$$

wherein R represents the resistance component, jX represents the reactance component, M_{eff} represents the muscular tissue effective length, and p_r and $j p_x$ represent a real part and
15 imaginary part of complex resistivity, respectively,

$$1/(p_r + j p_x) = 1/R_e + 1/(R_i + j \times 2\pi \times f \times C_m)$$

wherein R_e represents the extracellular fluid resistivity, R_i represents the intracellular fluid resistivity, C_m represents the distribution membrane capacitance, f represents a measuring
20 frequency, j represents an imaginary number, and π represents a pi.

11. The device of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the muscle fatigue level determination means computes the muscle
25 fatigue level by dividing the extracellular fluid resistivity by the distribution membrane capacitance.

12. The device of claim 10, wherein the muscle fatigue

level determination means computes the muscle fatigue level by dividing the extracellular fluid resistivity by the distribution membrane capacitance.

5 13. The device of claim 11, wherein the muscle fatigue level determination means further computes a more accurate muscle fatigue level by considering at least one of personal data including a body weight, a body height, age and sex in addition to the computed muscle fatigue level.

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 14. The device of claim 12, wherein the muscle fatigue level determination means further computes a more accurate muscle fatigue level by considering at least one of personal data including a body weight, a body height, age and sex in
15 addition to the computed muscle fatigue level.

 15. The device of claim 1, comprising:
a main body,
first ranging portions,
20 second ranging portions, and
electrode sets,
wherein
the main body serves as a base,
the first ranging portions are disposed on the main body such
25 that they can slide freely in a part width direction in a body part so as to measure a part width,
the second ranging portions are disposed on the first ranging portions such that they can slide freely in a part length

direction in the body part so as to measure a part length, and the electrode sets comprise current-carrying electrodes and measuring electrodes which are disposed at positions on the second ranging portions which correspond to the part length, 5 the impedance component measuring means includes the electrode sets and measures a resistance component and a reactance component in a body part which is in direct contact with the electrode sets as impedance in the body part, and the muscular tissue effective length measuring means computes 10 a muscular tissue effective length in the body part based on the part width measured by the first ranging portions and the part length measured by the second ranging portions.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the electrode sets 15 are disposed at the positions on the second ranging portions which correspond to the part length via flexible, elastic members.